AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of computer users, a method for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of computer users associated with the document, ~~a~~ the method comprising:

an act of receiving the handwritten annotation data ~~of an author~~ from a first user among the plurality of computer users~~,~~;

an act of determining that the handwritten annotation data ~~identified as~~ is public data;

~~and~~ an act of automatically ~~sent from an author's device for~~ writing the handwritten annotation data of the first user to a shared canvas in response to the determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data, ~~publishing~~ the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of users with any other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users~~,~~; and

an act of distributing the ~~annotation data~~ shared canvas, including any shared handwritten annotations, to at least one device of at least one recipient subscriber.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises combining the handwritten annotation data with other annotation data on a shared canvas.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the shared canvas corresponds to a page of a publication, and wherein receiving handwritten annotation data comprises receiving handwritten strokes corresponding to the page.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the annotation

data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises combining the handwritten annotation data with other annotation data on a graffiti page.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein receiving handwritten annotation data comprises receiving handwritten strokes independent of any page of a publication.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the handwritten annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises accessing a list of subscriber users, and sending the annotation data to at least one subscriber user in the list.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein sending the handwritten annotation data comprises automatically updating a subscriber.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising, receiving a request from a computing device corresponding to a subscriber user, and wherein sending the handwritten annotation data comprises providing the annotation data in response to the request.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, persisting the handwritten annotation data.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising, receiving data corresponding to a page of a publication, and wherein persisting the handwritten annotation data comprises persisting the handwritten annotation data in association with the page.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-~~readable~~ storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) In a computer network having a server and clients for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of clients, a system for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of clients associated with the document, the system comprising:

an annotation device that is a client of the server, the annotation device including an annotations program that manages ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations input by ~~an author~~ first client that is among the plurality of clients and includes at least one operating mode ~~in which~~ configured to write the handwritten annotation data of the first client to a shared canvas in response to a determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data, the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of clients with any other of the plurality of clients such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of clients ~~the input ink~~ handwritten annotations ~~are to be published~~; and

a send mechanism that sends the shared canvas, including any shared ~~published ink~~ handwritten annotations to a server for distribution to ~~other~~ at least some of the plurality of clients, the ~~published ink~~ shared handwritten annotations identified as public and selectively published to at least one client and not published to at least one other client.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the send mechanism comprises a background send thread of the annotation device.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation program displays a page of a publication, and wherein the ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations are received in association with the displayed page.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the send mechanism provides an identity of the author, an identifier of the page of the publication and stroke data corresponding to the ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations to the server.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations program includes at least one other operating mode in which received ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations are

private.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations program provides at least one warning to the author when the operating mode is one in which the input ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations are to be published.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a presentation page notation mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to subscriber clients.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a shared canvas mode corresponding to a publication page in which handwritten annotations are distributed by the server to any other client in association with that publication page.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received ~~ink~~ handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a graffiti page canvas mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to any other client.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations device includes a receive mechanism that receives handwritten annotations published by at least one other client and provides those annotations to the annotation program for presentation.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the handwritten annotations device combines the received published handwritten annotations with the handwritten annotations input by the author for displaying to that author.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the receive mechanism comprises a background receive thread.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the received handwritten

annotations correspond to a shared canvas mode in which any client receives data from any other handwritten annotations publisher in association with a publication page.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the received handwritten annotations correspond to a graffiti mode in which any client receives data from any publisher that is operating in the graffiti mode.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device further comprises a mechanism for subscribing to receive the public handwritten annotations of another user.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device further comprises a mechanism for filtering which handwritten annotations are presented.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) In a computer network for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of clients, a system for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of clients associated with the document, the system comprising:

a first annotation device having a first annotation program thereon on which ~~an author~~ a first client among a plurality of clients inputs handwritten annotation data and which writes the handwritten annotation data of the first client to a shared canvas in response to a determination that the handwritten annotation data is semi-public data, the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of clients with any other of the plurality of clients such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of clients, the handwritten annotation data ~~input by the author identified as public and~~ selectively published to at least one client and not published to at least one other client among the plurality of clients;

a second annotation device having a second annotation program thereon which outputs handwritten annotation data, and

a server that receives the semi-public handwritten annotation data from the first annotation device and sends the shared canvas, including any shared semi-public handwritten annotation data to the second annotation device for output via the second annotation program.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the first annotation program outputs annotation data, the second annotation program inputs other public annotation data, and wherein the server receives the other public handwritten annotation data from the second annotation device and sends the other public handwritten annotation data to the first annotation device for output via the first annotation program.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 further comprising a background thread on the first annotation device that sends the public handwritten annotation data to the server.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 further comprising a background thread on the second annotation device that receives the handwritten public annotation data from

the server.

35. (New) In a computing environment for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of computer users, a method for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of computer users, the method comprising:

an act of an annotations program receiving from a computer user handwritten annotation data for sharing via a shared canvas, the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of users with any other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users;

an act of sending the handwritten annotation data to a server for combining with other handwritten annotation data on a shared canvas in response to a determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data; and

an act of a computer user receiving from the server an updated shared canvas including handwritten annotation data entered by other computer users of the plurality of computer users.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising using a time-based filter to limit the annotations displayed with the document on the shared canvas to those annotations input before a certain time or date.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising using an author-based filter to limit the annotations displayed with the document on the shared canvas to those annotations input by one or more specified users.